

Cooperative Agreements with Private Non-Profit Vocational Rehabilitation Service Providers

Makeup of CRPs

Due to the geographic realities which exist in South Dakota, the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) recognizes one of the best sources available for the provision of rehabilitation services are community rehabilitation programs (CRP). CRPs consist of Adjustment Training Centers, Mental Health Centers, Career Learning Centers, Job Shops, Independent Living Centers, and Communication Services for the Deaf.

Establishment of Cooperative Agreements

The Department has contractual agreements with private nonprofit community rehabilitation programs to define services and responsibilities of the Division and agencies providing services. These contracts are outcome based and have been designed to assist the CRP's to streamline services for individuals with disabilities including those who have vision loss and mental illness or developmental disabilities. The need for and decision to enter in to cooperative agreements is determined by the SBVI Division Director.

Manner in which services are purchased from CRPs

The Division has fee-for-service arrangements in place with private nonprofit community rehabilitation programs. The rates are outcome based and services are purchased by SBVI from CRPs utilizing an authorization process. The amount of services purchased depends upon the amount and type of services needed by consumers as defined in individual plans for employment. Agencies eligible to receive authorizations must be approved vendors and must be current service providers of the Department or have CARF Accreditation. Fees are increased each year in accordance with the recognized cost of living increases.

Training Needs Assessment

SBVI and the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) annually assess the training needs of staff and providers; one method used to determine training needs is the administering of an annual survey. Community Rehabilitation Programs are offered the opportunity to submit surveys in order to provide their input on upcoming training offered by SBVI and DRS.

Improve capacity and quality of services from CRPs

The Division continually works on improving the capacity and quality of services from CRPs. This is typically done through training sessions offered by the Region VIII CRP Rehabilitation Continuing Education program and the State VR agencies. Annual training conferences include Employment Specialists Training, Midwinter conference, and the Fall Conference. SBVI has provided blindness-specific training to CRP job development providers as a strategy designed to improve the quality of services provided.